



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 31.11 Thursday, March 13, 2025

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

FIRST in MI Robotics competition is Wed.-Sat. at BHS

One of the FIRST in Michigan Robotics district competitions in the state is set for Wednesday through Saturday, March 12-15, at Belleville High School.

Entry is free and the public is encouraged to attend and watch the contests between the 40 school teams. Live webcasts carry the competitions.

Belleville High School is represented by the Bellevillains, #6615.

Competition started the last week of February. After five weeks of competitions, the state championships will take place the first week of April at Saginaw Valley State University.

On its website, FIRST in Michigan says its mission is to establish a sustainable FIRST Robotics Competition team at every high school in the state.

“Ultimately, our goal is to strengthen the school to STEM career connection by implementing the FIRST progression of programs in every school and school district, preschool through grade 12.

“FIRST in Michigan wants students to thrive in a high-tech world with an unbridled passion for skilled trades, engineering, programming, and corporate problem-solving.

“FIRST’s hands-on approach enables students to “test drive” these areas to see where their interests and aptitudes fit,” it concludes.

More information is available at <http://www.firstinmichigan.org>, with details on firstinspires.org .



Those attending the Belleville Day in Florida luncheon on Feb. 22 in Hernando, FL at Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club gathered for a photo. Next year, the date is Saturday, Feb. 21, 2026 at the same location. For more information, email organizer Lynn Gorman at lynnanngorman@gmail.com . “We always have a great time talking about Belleville people and places with each other,” said Gorman. “There is always a lot of laughter in the room. We usually get about 25 people and we can accommodate a lot more than that, so please come! The food is very good, and we have a gift raffle.” According to Gorman, the event was started 44 years ago by a group of retired Belleville teachers.

VBT approves tearing down former Leggs Lounge

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At its regular meeting on March 4, the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees hired Falcon Demolition LLC for the low bid of \$49,900 to demolish the former Leggs Lounge at 50778 Michigan Ave.

Ron Akers, director of municipal management, said the building had housed an adult entertainment business, but then it went out of business and has been vacant for several years.

Earlier, township supervisor Kevin McNamara said that recently animals had gotten into the building.

After the property owner was not interested in demolition, the township condemned the building and received four bids for demolition.

Director Akers said the cost of the demolition will be placed as a lien on the property and the township will get that amount back upon the sale or transfer of the property.

In other business at the 19-minute meeting, the board:

- Approved a resolution for the long-term maintenance of the storm water management system at Crossroads Distribution Center North;

- Approved the second reading and adoption of a zoning ordinance amendment to allow for added height in the Belleville Road Overlay District, with additional building setbacks;

- Approved the second reading and adoption of Article V, the Property Maintenance Code, to comply with national and state updates;

- Approved a preliminary site condominium request and PRD site condominiums as recommended by the planning commission for 75 homes on 31 acres at the northwest corner of Tyler

(continued on page 3)

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SECOND FRONT PAGE

VBT Board

(continued from page 1)

and Morton Taylor by Pulte Homes. When trustee Kevin Martin asked about the county drain that runs through the site, a Pulte representative they plan to clean the drain, subject to Wayne County approval. He also said Pulte will pave Morton Taylor north of Tyler to the northernmost street into the Walden Woods subdivision;

- Approved special land use for Pulte Homes for the proposed Cedarchase development at the northwest corner of Tyler and Morton Taylor roads;

- Authorized Bill Miner, director of water and sewer, to be on the DUWA (Downriver Utility Wastewater Authority) board to represent Van Buren Township and Ron Akers to be the alternative representative;

- Approved the supervisor's reappointments of Michael McGovern and William Osier to the Board of Construction Appeals with terms to expire Feb. 28, 2028;

- Approved an amendment to the Michigan Mutual Aid Box Alarm System Agreement, with the only change being it is individualized by municipality;

- Approved the appointment of Philip Peters to the Board of Zoning Appeals (alternate) and to the Environmental Commission with both terms to expire March 4, 2028; and

- Heard Clerk Leon Wright report that he was among township representatives meeting with Wayne County Community College to work out an agreement for the township to have four voting precincts at WCCC and three at township hall. He said this would be getting the precincts out of the schools. More information will be announced when the agreement is complete.

Absent and excused from the March 4 township board meeting were supervisor McNamara and trustee Donald Boynton. Treasurer Sharry Budd presided over the meeting.

City of Belleville changes hours city hall is open to the public

On Friday, Belleville City Manager Jason Smith announced that city hall would have new hours for serving the public.

"To align with our union contracts, effective Monday [March 10], our new City Hall office hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.," he said.

Department heads, were asked to notify their staffs of this change.

Previous hours were 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

School Board gets Labor Day Waiver from Dept. of Ed.

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

After Monday's brief hearing where the Van Buren Public Schools presented the reasons it might want to start school in the fall before Labor Day, a representative from the Michigan Department of Education, who was present by phone, remotely approved a three-year waiver.

Director of Instruction Jeff Moore said that 125 students are in the early college program, which will be the first year with Washtenaw Community College, and there are 130 students who attend the Ford Career Center. Both those programs start before Labor Day and Belleville High School students would miss out on some of the learning if they couldn't start before Labor Day.

Board president Amy Pearce asked if the district has to use the Labor Day Waiver if it is granted and School Supt. Pete Kudlak said it didn't. He said it's a three-year waiver and if the district wants to use it, it can.

Supt. Kudlak said the district had the waiver for three years and used it a couple of years. He said the school year will be determined by negotiation.

There were no questions from the audience and the state representative announced the waiver was approved for the next three years.

In other business at the one-hour-36-minute March 10 meeting, the board:

- Recognized the students who had 2024-25 Music Awards and the BHS boys and girls bowling teams, which both ended up second in state competition;

- Received information on a proposed year's contract with Plante Moran Realpoint for services. Supt. Kudlak said the firm will help the district with its 2025 bond issue and work as the owner's representative. It does the day-to-day grind behind the scenes on use of the bond money. Cost is \$40,000 flat, reimbursable expenses up to \$35,000, and 2.25% of the total voter-approved bond amount. The vote on approval of the Realpoint contract will come at the next school board meeting on April 14;

- Approved a Virtual Instruction Learning Plan to accommodate student testing at the high school for this year. The state sets that the district can have 15 days where students can have virtual education at home for several reasons, but VBPS plans for seniors to use only two days at home. Director Moore said the SAT and PSAT tests are now digital which cause staff issues when they are administered. On April 8, all students will be in the building, with some taking tests. On April 9, 10th and 11th graders will be taking tests and 9th and 12th graders will be at home. On April

10, 9th and 11th graders will be taking tests at school and 10th and 12th graders will be at home doing work online. This will not affect the elementary grades;

- Approved a new BHS course proposal of "True Crime and Detective Literature" for one semester, half credit of English, for seniors that starts in the 2025-26 school year;

- Approved the Non-Affiliated Salary Schedule as now required by the state. Supt. Kulak said there are from 40-60 employees who are not affiliated with bargaining units whose salaries must be on this schedule, including everyone in the administration building, the IT team, Transportation administrator, GSRP, tuition teachers, pool manager, and others. He said the schedule requirements are still being battled in court;

- Approved the March 12 resignation of McBride Middle School teacher Karen LaFave after less than a year of service;

- Approved the Feb. 28 termination of Brenda Morgan from Transportation after less than a year of service; the Feb. 28 resignation of Samantha Wilson from Buildings and Grounds after less than a year of service; and the March 13 resignation of Tony Shauan Loucks from the Transportation Department after four years of service;

- Approved the employment of Dawn Floyd as a bus aide as of Feb. 25; Bonnie Becker in food service at McBride Middle School as of Feb. 27; Leonard Edwards Jr. as a bus driver trainee as of Feb. 26; and Michael Brief as a custodian in Buildings and Grounds as of March 12;

- Heard director of plant operations James Williams note the district had been awarded a grant for two EV buses and infrastructure and they need charging stations for the two buses so the district is going out for bids. He said they decided they needed something for the buses to plug into before getting the buses;

- Heard Finance Director Priya Nayak say they have completed the application for a third EV bus and they may get eight additional buses by the time they are through. Board president Pearce said as long as they can get the expensive EV buses free, they should get them and use them. When they no longer work, the district can buy regular buses again;

- Heard director Nayak also report the district received a \$100,000 grant for fresh fruits and vegetables at Owen and the elementary schools;

- Heard Kudlak report the girls basketball team won its game that evening, 79-40, and will play again Wednesday. The state semi-finals are March 21 and the championship on March 22, if they get that far; and
- Heard Pearce report BHS will host the

MMEA music festival for Southeastern Michigan on Wednesday and Thursday in the auditorium and then the Robotics regional competition is Thursday through Saturday at BHS.

Clerk LaPorte reports county commission may consider paving Judd

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At its Feb. 25 regular meeting, the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees heard Clerk Don LaPorte report that he got a call for Wayne County Commissioner Allen Wilson about his request to for the county pave a part of Judd Road.

Clerk LaPorte said commissioner Wilson said the county is in the process of divvying up its funds for projects and LaPorte's request for the improvement of Judd Road is at the top of the list.

Sumpter officials may have to go to a commission meeting to give a pitch for the project, LaPorte said.

When he asked commissioner Wilson to improve Judd Road, he explained that the gravel road between the paved part of Judd Road and Rawsonville Road is hard on the fire trucks that use that route to get to Rawsonville Woods mobile home park, where there are many calls.

LaPorte had been a member of the fire department for many years.

Judd Road is a safety issue, he said, noting that the trucks will be able to get to that part of the township faster to help people if the road is smooth.

In other business at the 50-minute on Feb. 25, the board:

- Approved the Feb. 13 minutes of the planning commission and the Feb. 13 zoning board of appeals minutes and then rescinded both actions and removed the items from the agenda. Trustee Oddy informed them these minutes haven't been approved first by the commission and the ZBA, as is the usual procedure;

- Approved the planning commission's recommendation for a text amendment to Section 6.4, Regulation of Animals;

- Approved paying Midwest Pavement Inc.'s final invoice for the additional work and fees authorized on the parking lots totaling \$55,486;

- Approved sending treasurer Bart Patterson to attend the MMTA Basic Institute training April 28-May 2 at a cost not to exceed \$1,415. After the vote, Patterson said this is the basic class and it will require him taking a week off from work;

- Approved sending deputy treasurer Erica Campbell to MMTA Advanced Institute

(continued on page 6)

OPINIONS

Editorial

We are going to miss Jerry McKelvey

Gerald McKelvey, who was part of the *Belleville-Area Independent* since its start, died over the weekend in hospice care at the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor.

Jerry was one of the dozen community members who each invested \$1,000 to start a new newspaper in 1994, and the *Independent* started publishing the first week of 1995. It has continued through this day.

We first operated out of his business office on Charles Street. When we needed more space, we moved to the former movie theater on Main Street.

Jerry grew up in the Denton neighborhood and graduated from Belleville High School in 1956. He served in the military. He worked for the school district as administrator of the transportation department and then started his own tax and accounting business.

He was active in Bethany Bible Church and sang in its choir. Jerry was active in township government and smiled when he told how he was sent to jail with others briefly in a VBT squabble.

In later years, after his beloved wife died, he sold his home and moved to independent living in Canton. But he still was here helping to keep the *Independent* operating through the lean times.

We will miss Jerry's presence and guidance and smile.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

The sunshine and warmer weather this week has uplifted people's hearts. The grey, cloudy, rainy skies were gone and the sun was out. People came into the office and the first comments out of their mouths were how warm it was outside. People left their winter coats at home and came out to enjoy the weather, some without any coats at all.

One lady said she worked outside in her garden all day long on Monday, when the sunny weather was in the 60s, and it felt good, since she had been under stress during the grey weather.

We have received many visits from people who are having their taxes done across the hall by the CPAs there. They pop in to see us, as they do once a year when they do their taxes. It's fun to see them and find out what they've been up to in the warmer weather.

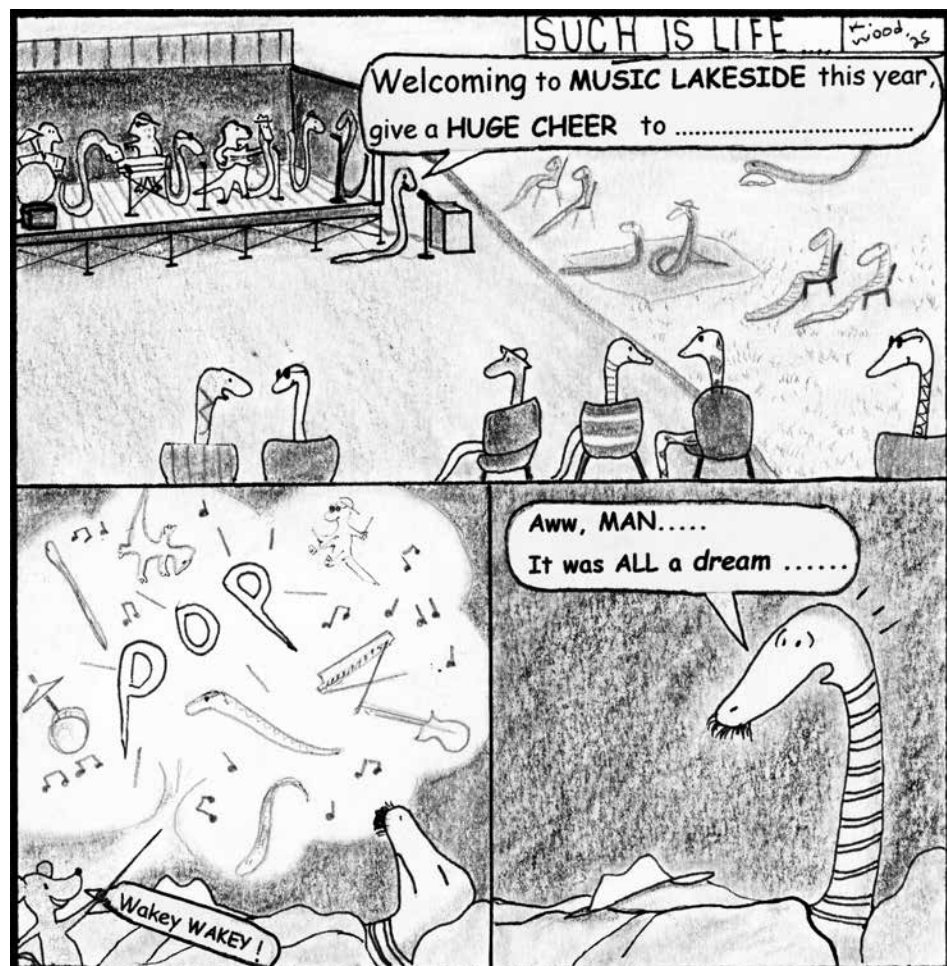
Van Buren Township Public Service Director Larry Luckett said I was wrong when I wrote that Wayne County put up the deer-crossing signs in the northern part of VBT. He said he put up the signs because the county was so slow about it. He said he put the reflective red noses on the deer.

I told him Reg Ion, who had asked the township for the signs, said the deer are impressed with the signs and cross right where the signs are.

Reg asked for the signs at a meeting or two because of all the dead deer he had seen along the roadways near township hall. Especially saddening was seeing the young deer standing over their dead parent at the roadside and sometimes being hit and killed themselves. Reg even picked up a dead deer and delivered it to the police department.

McNamara said he had asked for the signs and that was the county right of way and so

...By Rosemary K. Otzman



the county would have to put them up. Well, the county waited too long. The signs were done but not put up until Luckett did it.

We've heard comments about how Belleville City Hall has cut back its hours of serving the public due to a new contract. They are now open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Won't be long, we think, before they negotiate a four-day work week like Van Buren Township has.

The Sumpter Township Board of Trustees has been interviewing candidates for township manager, to replace Anthony Burdick when he retires at the end of this month. Some of the final candidates are familiar faces: Matthew Best, who was at Van Buren Township for several years after a stint with the county; Gregory Elliott, who worked for VBT's planning consultant; plus Adam Kline and Ken Marten. A separate March 11 interview had to be set up for Marten since he was reportedly out of the country for the first session on March 4.

Ghostwriter Airshows is going to put on a display at Willow Run Airport for the 2025 Thunder Over Michigan Air Show. The pilot uses a 1956 deHavilland Chipmunk that has been customized for aerobatics and writing in the sky. The U.S. Navy Blue Angels and U.S.A.F. F-22 Raptor will be here as well on June 20-22.

This week a resident of Walden Woods said she doesn't like all the noise from the airshow every year. I bet she'll get a kick out

of the skywriter.

People keep asking about when the Denton Road Bridge will be done. The latest report we have is that it will be done by the end of 2025. Hope so.

Tractor Supply is due to be on an upcoming agenda of the VBT Planning Commission for a final site plan approval. That would mean digging could start. We've been getting a lot of questions about Tractor Supply and how soon it will be coming to the corner of Sumpter and Hull roads. There has been quite a wait from drainage approval from the county.

The Belleville Area District Library was due to have a proposal for \$10,301 worth of vape detectors in the public restrooms on its agenda for action at its March 11 meeting, after we go to press for this issue.

The staff never complains about the teens at the board meetings and it's always upbeat about meeting the needs of the students and keeping them occupied. They had to stop the pizza deliveries to teens at the library, however. Now, it's detecting the vaping.

The library has even hired extra staff to help with the teen room and to put on extra events for the teens. We've got to congratulate the staff for helping with this community's teenagers.



www.bellevilleareaindependent.com
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BELLEVILLE-AREA INDEPENDENT

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Letters

A letter written too late?

To the editor:

Though minds seem to have been made up, it's still my opinion that the best location for our city hall is right where it is now.

I think that the two-story section could be extended toward Liberty Street far enough to accommodate our police, fire, EMS, clerical staff, and anyone else that needs location.

The single-story sections could be removed, if need be, to make a more attractive rehabbed building with more than enough room for everyone, better parking, and an overall great location and done at a lower cost than starting on a new location.

Jim Graham
City of Belleville

Thanks to St. Jude for answering my prayers

To the editor:

I want to thank St. Jude for answering my prayers. They came true. Thank you so much.

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved, and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, keeper of the hopeless, pray for us.

Thank you,
C. Powell, Wayne, MI

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Thursday, March 13** – Classic movie “On the Town” will be shown at 6:30 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library’s Cozadd Room. It stars Gene Kelly and Frank Sinatra in the 1945 musical. Retired Detroit Free Press movie critic will introduce the film and lead a discussion after the movie. Free. Sponsored by Friends of the Library and Belleville Area Council for the Arts.

• **Thursday, Friday, Saturday, March 13-15** – FIRST Robotics district competition at Belleville High School. Free entry. Public encouraged to attend.

• **Friday, March 14** – St. Aloysius, 37200 Neville St., Romulus, Lenten Fish Fry, homemade cod and shrimp dinners, 4:30-7 p.m. Baked or fried, \$15; pizza, \$6; kids meals, \$9. Credit and debit cards accepted. Curbside pickup, 313-597-3194.

• **Friday, March 14** – Lenten Fish Fry at 5 p.m. and meat auction at 6:30 p.m. Pre-St. Patrick’s Day party at 7:30 p.m. with Anthony Richendollar. All at Van Buren Eagles #3996, 9961 Beck Rd., Van Buren Township. Open to the public. pickup, 313-597-3194.

• **Friday, March 14** – Eat at Panera Bread, 45851 Michigan Ave., Canton, 4 to 8 p.m., and 25% of net sales will be donated to Faith Community Center of Belleville. Use code FUND4U at panerabread.com, in the Panera App, or at the kiosk in-café.

• **Saturday, March 15** – St. Patrick’s Day Roller Skating Party to benefit Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Sumpter Roller Skate Park, 19750 Sumpter Rd., Sumpter Township. \$10 pre-sale and \$12 at the door (includes skate rental). Bake sale. Meet some of FMAR’s adoptable animals.

• **Monday, March 17** – St. Patrick’s Day corned beef and cabbage dinner at the Van Buren Eagles #3996, 9961 Beck Rd., Van Buren Township, runs from 5-8 p.m. or until it’s gone. Menu is corned beef, cabbage, carrots, potatoes, rutabagas, bread and butter for \$15. Open to the public. Cash bar. Live entertainment included. Get there early; the meal is always a sell-out.

• **Wednesday, March 19** – Help Van Buren Township design a park on the water just over the north end of the Belleville Bridge. A Visioning Workshop to enhance public access to Belleville Lake runs from 3-8 p.m. at the VBT Community Center, 46425 Tyler Rd.

• **Friday, March 21** – St. Aloysius, 37200 Neville St., Romulus, Lenten Fish Fry, homemade cod and shrimp dinners, 4:30-7 p.m. Baked or fried, \$15; pizza, \$6; kids meals, \$9. Credit and debit cards accepted. Curbside pickup, 313-597-3194.

• **Friday, March 21** – Celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam era and the veterans who served is set for 5 p.m. at the Belleville High School Auditorium. All Vietnam-era veterans and the public is invited to attend to honor their service and sacrifice.

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Sumpter Twp.

(continued from page 3)

training, May 14-16, at a cost not to exceed \$800. Patterson said his deputy already completed the basic training and will be going to advanced training;

- Approved increasing Cari Ford's contract hours from 55 to about 100 hours a month until a permanent finance director is hired;

- Approved directing labor attorney Stacy Belisle to prepare a separation agreement and closure document for existing Worker's Compensation issues;

- Heard Trustee Matthew Oddy say the board met in special open session before this meeting to consider the evaluation of candidates for township manager. He said there was a large group of candidates;

- Heard Ban say it has been pointed out to here that there used to be two public comment areas on the agenda, but now there is just one at the beginning. The two used to be public comment on agenda items only at the beginning and open-floor public comment at the end. Now there is only open floor at the beginning and none at the end. She had said at a previous meeting that the public had nowhere to give open comments to the board;

- Heard Ban also compliment senior coordinator Maryann Watson who loaned a walker and commode chair to a senior in need even though she lived in Van Buren Township. Ban said Van Buren Township does not have a loan closet. Ban said she got the items from Watson and delivered them to the senior, who was very grateful. She also said she called the new county commissioner Allen Wilson about the bad conditions of the Sumpter roads and has received no reply. She then called county executive Warren Evan's office and talked to a woman who said she would call back and gave Ban her phone number. She said she doesn't need Wilson to reply, since she went higher up at the county. Patterson called Wilson's office and got a voice mail reply;

- Heard resident Leroy Paige invite the board and residents to the 50th anniversary celebration of Vietnam War Era Veterans at 5 p.m., Friday, March 21 at Belleville High School. He said the time included is November 1955 to May, 1975. He said when these veterans returned they did not get good treatment. This event is to honor their service and sacrifice, he said;

- Heard a SenCy, Inc. representative discuss the township's cybersecurity program that is up for renewal at \$15,000 and a 10% discount. He described an additional \$3,000 program for external and internal threats. He said the township now has a great score in cybersecurity with an expected 800+ score in March. This contract will be considered at an upcoming meeting;

- Heard township manager Anthony Burdick report that the \$25,000 MEDC grant has been finalized for parks and grounds improvements, both ordinance vehicles need to be repaired or replaced and this is being reviewed, the south side police department windows are finally being installed that week, and the Belleville

Central Business Community's Memorial Day Parade is May 26 and last year Sumpter officials participated;

- Heard Oddy report the planning commission is considering roof pitches and accessory buildings for family members to live;

- Heard trustee Tim Rush report there will be one hour worth of Skyward training this year in late March on a Saturday morning at the fire hall. He said the police and fire departments are invited along with the DPW and residents. Huron Township has also been invited. Trustee Rush said, "Covid messed us up" and this is the first weather training since then;

- Heard clerk Don LaPorte report he got a call from Priority Waste that said they are doing the best they can to keep the schedules for trash pickups, adding that the roads were sheets of ice; and

- Heard Oddy say he called commissioner Wilson about the dangerous branches hanging over roadways.



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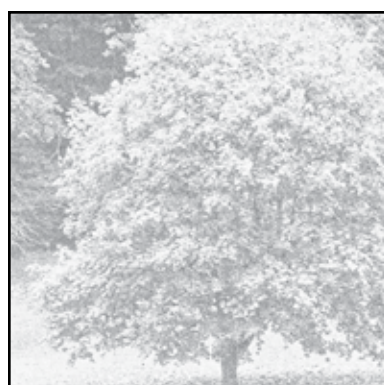
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Obituaries

James Lucas "Jim"
Stimach

JAMES LUCAS STIMACH

(January 3, 1942 – March 4, 2025)

James Lucas "Jim" Stimach, age 83, of Belleville, MI, passed away Tuesday, March 4, 2025, peacefully at home. He was born January 3, 1942, in Detroit, MI, son of Jack Phillip & Mollie Olga Marcella (Stefanac) Stimach. He graduated from St. Alphonse High School in Dearborn, MI. Jim then earned a bachelor's degree in Engineering from the University of Detroit where he was also a co-op student at the Ford Motor Company and a member of the Theta Xi fraternity. After college, Jim married the love of his life, Barbara, on October 30, 1965. Jim then entered the Army and the young couple moved to the Huntsville, Alabama Arsenal where he worked in the Space Program for three years and attended the University of Alabama. After fulfilling his military commitment, Jim joined the Ford Motor Company where he worked for 35 years as an engineer and executive. A highlight of his time at Ford was when he was selected as Jack Nicklaus' golf partner for the Ford Senior Players Championship Pro-Am at TPC Dearborn. Jim had the round of his life carrying Jack to a 2nd-place finish! After retiring from Ford, Jim joined Link Engineering as their Marketing Director for 10 years before finally retiring for good. Jim was a former member of St. Anthony Catholic Church in Belleville, MI, where he was in the Men's Club, an usher, eucharistic minister, on the school board, and Parish Council President. The Stimach's enjoyed hosting annual retreats at their home for many St. Anthony teens, and married couples. Jim and Barb were very well known for their wonderful annual Christmas Caroling Party they hosted every Christmas for 40 years. They also had just celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary year at a special Mass at St. John. Jim was an Eagle scout in his youth and was proud to be a Boy Scout Leader when his children were young. There are many great memories from starting Bingo and helping with the beer tent at the annual Strawberry Festival. More recently, Jim was an active member of

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Ypsilanti, MI, where he was a eucharistic minister, lector, and usher as well. He prayed the rosary at the Mission Point Nursing Home and delivered Communion to the University of Michigan Hospital. He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus, Ypsilanti, MI. Jim and Barb traveled the world, but nothing gave them more joy than being on the water. They lived on Belleville Lake for over 50 years where Jim was a member of the Belleville Yacht Club. The Stimach's also had their beloved family cottage on Mullet Lake in Indian River where they spent countless Christmas holidays, summers and every weekend in between. He was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed boating, waterskiing, hunting, and downhill skiing. Jim loved skiing at Nubs Nob in Harbor Springs and apres-skiing at Nubs Pub singing along with Mike Ridley. Jim absolutely loved golf and started the annual Fourth of July Golf Tournament at Indian River CC. But wherever Jim was, it always was with family and friends. He loved being around friends and family. And enjoying a good cocktail with them.

Mr. Stimach is survived by his loving and devoted wife Barbara Ann (Plotzke) Stimach; four children Eric (Ingra) Stimach of Belleville, MI, Jeff (Susan) Stimach of Grand Blanc, MI, Brian (Renae) Stimach of Northville, MI, and Lora (Peter) Bunarek of Alpharetta, Georgia; 9 grandchildren Chandler Stimach Purcell (Sean), Jack Stimach, Isabel Stimach, Jordan Stimach, Lucas Stimach, Alec Stimach, Charlie Bunarek, Henry Bunarek and Mollie Bunarek) and one great-grandson (Cameron Purcell); two sisters Katie (Roger) Meiners of Highland, MI, and Carolyn (Eddie) Moehle of Traverse City, MI; also numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and many, many friends. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Visitation will be 3-8 PM, Thursday, March 13, 2025, with a 6:15 PM Rosary at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111-2764 (734)697-4500.

A Funeral Mass will be at 2:00 PM, Friday, March 14, 2025, at St. John the Baptist Church, 411 Florence St., Ypsilanti, MI 48197.

The family will welcome guests from 1-2 PM. Father Daniel Westermann will serve as Celebrant. Interment will be in Hillside Cemetery, Belleville, MI.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Right to Life of Michigan or Tunnel to Towers and would be appreciated.

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RONNIE GENE LOWHORN

(February 6, 1947 – March 4, 2025)

Age 78, of Van Buren Township. Served in U.S. Marines. Retired from Ford after 39 years. Survived by children Robin, Richard, Regina, Randy and Ryan; siblings Wanda and Jerry; 8 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home. www.davidcbrownfh.com

LINDA OSBORNE

(June 3, 1944 – March 6, 2025)

Age 80, of Wayne. Survived by niece Stephanie (Michael) Howard of Belleville; brother Danny Schoff of Missouri; three great-nieces Jessica, Madyline, Ella; great-nephew Cody; three great-great nephews. Services March 11. Arrangements by David C. Brown. www.davidcbrownfh.com

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Obituaries



Doris Jeanne Rowe

DORIS JEANNE ROWE

(July 25, 1930 – March 5, 2025)

Doris Jeanne Rowe, age 94, passed away Wednesday, March 5, 2025, surrounded by her family. She was born July 25, 1930, in St. Louis, MI. Doris moved to Ypsilanti in 1946. She attended Ypsilanti High School and graduated with the class of 1948. She married Glenn Harley Rowe on November 25, 1951. They had four daughters, Deborah (Steven Warden) Rowe-Warden of Shelby Township, MI, Sharon (Jeffrey) Straight of Ypsilanti Township, MI, Linda (Mark) Girard of Belleville, MI, and Lori Rowe of Ann Arbor, MI; 4 grandchildren Nicholas (April) Hamlett, Joseph (Jeanette) Girard, Riley Girard, and Raymond (Lauren) Straight; 3 great-grandchildren Dominick and Brandon Hamlett, and Jasnah Girard. Doris was preceded in death by her parents Fred and Violet Noll, sister Helen Waggoner, also brother Robert Noll.

Doris and Glenn started a pick-your-own produce farm (primarily U-pick strawberries) called Rowe's Produce Farm, located on Martz Road in Ypsilanti Township in 1965. Doris also ran Glenn's Farm Market, located on Ecorse Road in Ypsilanti, for 20 years.

Doris and Glenn traveled abroad during the off season. Once retired, they traveled throughout the U.S. in their motor home. They enjoyed 32 winters in their Naples, FL condominium in the Royal Wood Golf and Country Club where both loved to play golf and spend time with friends. She was on the Board of Visiting Nurses of Michigan. She volunteered for the March of Dimes, the Health Department, and helped to get kids immunized. She enjoyed gardening, reading, shopping, and eating out, not necessarily in that order.

Visitation was Sunday March 9, 2025, and Monday March 10, 2025 with a Funeral Service at The David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111-2764, (734) 697-4500. Pastor Gregory Buchner officiated. After cremation, a private ceremony at Union-Udell Cemetery, in Ypsilanti, MI will be held. www.davidcbrownfh.com

Memorial contributions may be made to Dementia Society of America <https://www.dementiasociety.org/> or Arbor Hospice <https://arborhospice.org/> and would be appreciated.

KRISTIN LEE (TALLADAY) FOWLER

(August 2, 1973 – March 8, 2025)

Age 51. Survived by husband David Fowler of Belleville; 6 children, Justin, Christopher, Dylan, Elijah, Marissa, Audrey; 3 bonus kids, Devin, Morgan, Megan; 4 grandchildren; mother Sharon; 3 brothers. Service is March 13 at New Arbor Bible Church, Ypsilanti. www.davidcbrownfh.com

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Brenda E. Belanger

BRENDA E. BELANGER

(September 18, 1962 – March 9, 2025)

Brenda E. Belanger, age 62, of Van Buren Township, MI, passed away Sunday, March 9, 2025, at her home. She was born September 18, 1962, in Wayne, MI, daughter of Marvin Woodrow & E. Jeanette (Luker) McCollum. She graduated from John Glenn High School, class of 1980. Brenda enjoyed drawing, coloring, crocheting, and riding bikes. Most of all, she loved her family, and time spent with her grandkids and dogs.

Mrs. Belanger is survived by her devoted husband of 40 years, Jim Belanger of Belleville, MI; daughter Paula (Michael) Dotson of Britton, MI; son Marvin Belanger of Belleville, MI; 6 grandchildren: Karmen, Korina, Michael James, Bryson, Memphis, and Newman; her dogs: Bentley, Baby, and Buddy; mother Jeanette McCollum of Wayne, MI; eight siblings: Evelyn, Sandra, Mark, Dale, Carol, Danny, Cheryl, and Rob; also numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. She was preceded in death by her father Marvin McCollum, also a brother Dennis McCollum. Cremation rites have been accorded. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI (734) 697-4500.

A Celebration of her Life will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 22, 2025, at River of Life, 16650 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI. Memorial contributions may be made to the family and would be appreciated.

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Gerald E. McKelvey



GERALD E. MCKELVEY

(February 27, 1938 – March 9, 2025)

Gerald E. McKelvey, age 87, long-time resident of Van Buren Township, MI, passed away Sunday, March 9, 2025, at the Ann Arbor Veterans Hospital. He was born February 27, 1938, in Denton, MI, son of Edward Woods McKelvey & Doretha (Youngs) McKelvey.

Gerald, or Jerry, as he was known, was valedictorian of his 1956 graduating class at Belleville High School and later earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Eastern Michigan University.

He served our country from 1956 until 1960 as a proud member of the United States Marine Corps, and married Louanna Joy Pitman, of Ypsilanti, in 1957.

Professionally, Mr. McKelvey served as Director of Transportation for Van Buren Public Schools, overseeing the safe transport of about 6,000 students on more than 50 school buses, every school day, for the better part of a decade. Later, he worked for Ford Motor Company, where he retired after 19 years in the accounting department. Afterwards, Jerry opened McKelvey and Associates, a company specializing in accounting and tax preparation, which was located next to the old Belleville post office on Charles Street, where the expanded Belleville Library now stands. But his favorite job of all time was his part time gig as an umpire for local Little League baseball and men's softball leagues, which he did for 17 summers.

Jerry always demonstrated a strong community service ethic. He was a charter and active member of the Belleville area Lions Club, serving in nearly all board positions with them, over many years. He served 3 terms as president of the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce. He was appointed by the Governor as a public member on the Chiropractic Board, part of the Department of Licensing and Regulation for the State of Michigan. He served as chairman of the

Board of Appeals in Van Buren Township, Vice-Chairman of the Van Buren Township Water and Sewer Commission, and was a founding member and former business manager of the Belleville-Area Independent Newspaper.

Jerry was an active and enthusiastic member of Bethany Bible Church since the early 1980s, and served as a deacon and church treasurer, as well as a leading role in the building of the church's new daycare facility.

Jerry and his wife Louanna loved spending time in their winter home in Tennessee from 2004-2015.

Most of all, he loved his family.

Mr. McKelvey is survived by his sister Betty (McKelvey) Fleming, of Canton, MI; daughter Cheryl Moran of Central Lake, MI; three sons: Kevin McKelvey of West Chester, Pennsylvania, Brian McKelvey and Timothy McKelvey, both of Belleville, MI; 8 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, 6 great-great-grandchildren, as well as numerous extended family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife of 63 years Louanna Joy (Pitman) McKelvey, grandson Michael McKelvey, great-grandson Timothy Richard Moran, son-in-law Matthew Moran, also daughter-in-law Nancy McKelvey.

Visitation will be 5-8 pm Thursday and 5-8 PM Friday, at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111-2764 (734) 697-4500. Funeral Service will be 10 a.m. Saturday, March 15, 2025, at Bethany Bible Church, 810 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI. Pastor Seth Westmoreland will officiate. A private interment will be held in Denton Cemetery, Van Buren Township, MI.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions made to Bethany Bible Church would be appreciated.

Upcoming Meetings

- Thursday, March 13 – Keystone Academy School Board, 5 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- Monday, March 17 – Belleville City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 18 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m., and workshop at 5 p.m. as needed
- Wednesday, March 19 – City of Belleville Downtown Development Authority, 6 p.m.,

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Independent photo by Janet Millard

March is Quilt Month and the third Saturday is Quilt Day. This year the Belleville Area Museum is covered with quilts from the front door through the second floor -- 150 in all. The Western Wayne County Quilt Guild has built a list of participants over the years and, of course, their Guild members put in their best work. There are many different types of quilts and wall hangings to enjoy over the five days a week the museum is open, which is: Tuesday, 4-7 p.m. and Wednesday through Saturday, noon-4 p.m. This is the quilt that will be raffled off at the end of March. Tickets are \$1 each.

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It was bitter cold the morning of March 6 when students and staff at Belleville High School had their Polar Plunge raising \$14,000 for Special Olympics and the Unified Sports Program. The BHS Polar Plunge had been set for an earlier date in February, but it was even colder on that date so it was moved to March in hopes of warmer weather.



March 14 – Jeff Crawford
 March 15 – Bella Riemer, Raymond Deming
 March 16 – Christopher Smolinski, Kimberly Anthony
 March 17 – Jewel Butler
 March 18 – Lettie Sanders, Beulah Deming
 March 20 – Kenneth Stewart, Jerry Meadows

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BHS football players sign with colleges on Feb. 21 Signing Day

The signing day for football was split into early signing and a national signing day.

The early signing day in December was for all the student athletes who graduated from high school early and enrolled in their college programs.

During the early signing day, there were seven signees and on national signing day, Feb. 21, there were 14 signees. In total 21 of the 32 seniors in the 2025 class at BHS have signed to their future universities or colleges.

• Andre Thomas #0 – Central Michigan University

• Antwon Thomas #1 – Miami Ohio University

• Adrian Walker #2 – Miami Ohio University

• Desmon Yarbrough #3 – Miami Ohio University

• Dathan Bryson #4 -- Heidelberg University

• Ray-mond Smith #5 – Madonna University

• Marquis Peoples Jr. #7 – Ferris State University

• Trey Graham #8 -- Siena Heights University

• Rashad Jones #9 -- Garden City CC

• Malik Murrell #10 – Undecided

• Elijah Dotson #11 -- University of Michigan

• Bryce Underwood #19 – University of Michigan

• Amiri Martin – #20 – Undecided

• Brayden Lane #24 – Tiffin University

• Braylon Riase #40 – University of Findlay

• Reginald Woods #42 – Madonna University

• Reyne Diaz #50 – Madonna University

• Andre Johnson #52 – Lead Prep Academy

• Lamar Fairfax #54 – University of Memphis

• Trezelle Jenkins Jr #55 – Wayne State University

• Damon Denny #57 – Northwood University

Brayden Lane
“Beneath the Stripes”

Court Watching

Dakota Austinjohn Cardinal

A charge of domestic violence on May 23, 2023 against Dakota Austinjohn Cardinal, 27, of Van Buren Township was dismissed by the party and then by a motion of the prosecutor on July 19, 2023. The case was closed and the \$5,000 personal bond canceled.

Cardinal had been present at 34th District Court on June 14, 2023 by zoom for his pretrial. His case was adjourned by Judge Lisa Martin for discovery until July 5, 2023 when the case was to be conducted via zoom. It was then adjourned to July 19, 2023 and the complaining victim must appear. On July 19, 2023 the charges were dismissed and the case closed.

Cardinal explained this case as: “Two guys got angry at each other.”

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Board of education honors music students for 2024-25 awards

Kathy Courter, band director at Owen Intermediate School, presented the names of the following music students for 2024-25 recognition by the Van Buren Public

Deadline is May 31 for MTA scholarships for public service students

Applications are now being accepted for an annual scholarship that provides financial assistance to students who are aspiring to future roles serving in their community, or to receive education to further their current role.

Additionally, even more Michigan students are now eligible to apply for the Robert R. Robinson Memorial Scholarship, administered by the Michigan Townships Association (MTA).

Under the expanded eligibility, all undergraduate and graduate students in a Michigan college or university who are pursuing a degree in local government administration or similar coursework are now eligible to apply for the scholarship.

In addition, individuals -- including high school students --who wish to take educational training courses, seminars or online education that would prepare them to start in (or improve their current role in) a local government role may also apply.

The scholarship is a one-time award, typically up to \$1,500, determined on a competitive basis by the applicant's academic achievement, community involvement and commitment to serving local government. The application deadline is May 31, 2025.

More information, including an application and sample township resolution, is available at <https://michigantownships.org/about-mta/robert-robinson-scholarship/>, or by contacting MTA at (517) 321-6467, ext. 229.

Schools Board of Education at its regular meeting March 10.

- Tyler Elementary School – Isabelle Vargas, Gabriella James, and Damarius Boone;
- Savage Elementary School – Rebecca Loria and Victoria Cannon;
- Edgemont Elementary School – Emily O’Keefe, Terra Pittman, and Grayson Pruchnik;
- Rawsonville Elementary School – Abigail Dyda and Jaquea Dunlap;
- Owen Intermediate School Music – Justin Ratcliff and Caroline Garaba;
- Owen Intermediate School Band – Mari Ross, Oliver Davenport, and Laniya Yeager;
- McBride Middle School Choir – Jazlynn Galvan and Jace Tharp;
- McBride Middle School Band – Laiana Tomlin and Lauren Harris;
- Belleville High School Choir – Julianna DeGiorgio and Alston Kilbourne; and
- Belleville High School Band – Bryant McGee, Maelee Templeton, and Aubrey Jones.



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Belleville Planners continue work on new City Master Plan

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Although there were not enough members present to vote on anything, the Belleville Planning Commission convened Feb. 13 to hear the presentation on Housing from Giffels Webster consultant Andy Aamodt. The commission is completely updating the

2006 city Master Plan in a year-long series of steps due to culminate in December.

The city council's liaison to the commission, councilwoman Julie Kissel, is also vice-chairperson of the commission.

She opened the session in the absence of new chairman Jim Courage who was present by zoom and could not vote. Others present were commissioners Becky Hasen, John Juriga, and Alvis Brigis.

Absent were Mike Renaud, James O'Keefe, Mark Kowalski, and the newest appointed member Raytheon Martin who will be able to attend his first meeting once his fire-fighting classes are complete.

Representing the city staff were city manager Jason Smith and assistant city manager Steve Jones.

Also present was Mayor Kenneth Voigt who sat in the back of the room after coming in with his leg on a scooter, as he heals from recent foot surgery. The only member of the public present was the *Independent*.

Aamodt announced that the online survey on Housing, which ran Dec. 5 to Feb. 3, brought 110 responses, up from the 35 from the previous survey.

He said he would put up the new survey on Transportation in a few days and it is due to run through a March date, followed by a Sustainability survey to run next. Each survey is available at www.engage.giffelswebster.com/belleville-master-plan

Paper copies of the surveys will be available at city hall, he said.

Aamodt said the meeting schedule and other information will also be available on the city website.

The commission decided to have the Master Plan completely rewritten to replace the former plan that was written in 2006 and amended since then. The city council on July 15 approved paying longtime planning consultant Giffels Webster \$26,650 to rewrite the document.

Work on the year-long project began in October with a joint meeting of the planning commission, city council, and downtown development authority. Aamodt said they plan four public input opportunities.

At the Feb. 13 meeting, there was more than an hour of discussion on Belleville's housing needs and how to solve them. This will bring changes in the present Master Plan wording that commissioners considered.

Aamodt pointed out that figures from the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) show that compared to other surrounding communities, Belleville has the highest residential vacancy rate and the largest share of renter-occupied units. It also has the fewest total housing units, owner-occupied units, and single-family homes.

Belleville was compared to Van Buren, Sumpter, Canton, and Ypsilanti townships and the city of Romulus.

Discussing affordable housing, Aamodt said Belleville has a "kinda high" rate of "cost-burdened" households, those that pay more than 30% of their income on housing that brings challenges in paying for other necessities. He said in 2023, Belleville had 41.2% of its households at "cost-burdened" status and 57.2% as not cost-burdened, with 1.6% not able to be computed.

It was noted that Belleville had little space left to build new residential units, except for the area Davenport is planning to develop next to the Senior Co-op.

Both city manager Smith and Aamodt talked about a concept called "cottage courts" where homes of 500 to 1,000-square-feet in size are built four to a lot and share four parking spaces and a court. It has a homeowners association that takes care of the property and this keeps spaces low to provide housing.

Commissioner Brigis said he would like to see multi-floor buildings required in the downtown to accommodate housing.

Commissioner Juriga asked about

developing the city's vacant property behind Frosty Boy that used to have a pump station. Mayor Voigt said that would be an interesting spot to build a cottage development.

Brigis said they would have to get a proper developer from Ann Arbor and, "cottage doesn't really move the needle" in getting more residents into the city.

Aamodt said the consultants could get together with the city staff and look at that property to see what could be done with it.

Brigis said the city could be attracting high-tech folks from the Los Alamos project just over Rawsonville Road in Washtenaw County and the city needs to get creative.

City manager Smith and Aamodt explained the new "pattern-book houses" that are like the houses provided by Sears from their catalog at the turn of the century. These pattern-book houses look like single-family on the outside and fit into current housing developments, but they actually are multi-family.

Juriga said across the street from his home is a flower shop and behind it is a big field owned by the Memering family. Aamodt said maybe it could be more residential and he'll take a look at it.

Brigis said he has learned people would take classes at Wayne County Community College if there was transportation to get there from the city.

Transportation is the subject of the new online survey and will be discussed at the March 13 meeting, Aamodt said. He said there are 18 questions on this survey.

In an update, city manager Smith said the city will be putting together an ad hoc informal committee to look at the post office, where it plans to establish the city hall and police department if all works out. The committee could suggest what minor changes needs to be made. He said the city would put up a garage for four police cars in back. He said earlier that day they had inspectors of all kinds over at the building to check it out. There are walls that don't go all the way to the ceiling, he said.

Smith said they will look at moving the tower at city hall because you shouldn't build under the fall area of a tower. Van Buren Township will check to see if they need anything that's on that tower, he said.

Scheduled to be on the Feb. 13 agenda was Belleville's ordinance officer, Police Officer Jeff Gueli, who was not well that evening and didn't want to pass on what he had so he didn't come to the meeting. He will be re-scheduled for the March 13 meeting.

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Friends of Library seek used book donations for spring sale May 3, 4

The Friends of the Belleville Area District Library are gearing up for the spring book sale on May 3 and 4 and would appreciate used book donations to help make the sale a success.

Adult, teen and children's fiction in hardcover and paperback are currently in short supply. Romance and fantasy/sci-fi novels are needed the most. Also wanted are DVD's, Blu-ray discs and audio books. All donations should be in good condition.

Not accepted are encyclopedias, VHS video tapes or Reader's Digest condensed books.

There is a limit of three boxes of donations per library visit. The deadline for book-sale donations is April 30. A donation receipt may be obtained at the library circulation desk.

The Spring Fever Used Book Sale will be held at the Belleville Library, 167 Fourth St., on Saturday, May 3, noon-3 p.m. and Sunday, May 4, 1-4 p.m.

A pre-sale for members of the Friends of the Library will be held on Saturday, from 11 a.m. until noon. Membership forms may be obtained at the library, at the door on the days of the sale, or on-line at www.belleville.lib.mi.us.

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— Isaac Asimov

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More looking back:**30 years ago, this is what was happening in the tri-community**

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

We are celebrating completion of our 30th year of publication by printing stories from our earliest issues to show what was happening in Belleville, Van Buren, and Sumpter.

In our Jan. 26, 1995 issue, there were the following stories:

- Antiques on Main doubled its space, expanding into the store next door so now it has twice as much space on Main Street.
- Powerhouse Gym owners opened their location on Belleville Road, saying their goal was more of a fitness gym than a body-building place.
- The Belleville Parks Commission is asking city residents to help name the new city park that will be a part of the new subdivision being built on Savage and Sheldon roads.

We didn't have room in our Jan. 23, 2025 issue to publish all of the special stories in

the Jan. 19, 1995 paper, so we are including those stories today.

- The Community Quilt Block of the Week described by Marilyn Greca Locke was the Robson House on Tyler Road built in 1852. This beautifully preserved home in 1964 was awarded a Centennial Farm designation by the Michigan Historical Commission in cooperation with the Detroit Edison Company. It was built in a wild setting and the homestead and farm was known as Bear Hollow because of the large number of bears in the area. In an ongoing series in the *Independent*, Locke is describing each block in the Community Quilt, which was on display at the Fred C. Fischer Library.

- Michael Beaudrie, a lifelong Sumpter Township resident, was announced as a new volunteer fire fighter. He lives in the southern part of the township and Fire Chief Les Powell said he has been trying to get fire fighters in that area. He is a qualified truck driver with no fire-fighting experience but he can be trained, Chief Powell said.

- Sumpter Police Chief Clinton Brown said his department is looking into an ordinance to penalize residents for false emergency calls, such as 911 or alarms.

At the Jan. 10 township board meeting, Trustee Arness Cox said he was listening to his scanner recently and heard three out of four successive 911 calls were made by children playing with the phone. Township Supervisor Marvin Banotai said, "We have to teach the children that 911 is there to help someone," noting an officer can be injured responding to an emergency call.

- Three adults and two juveniles were arrested by Belleville Police in the Belmont Manor parking lot after one teen was stabbed in the back and slashed. Police Chief William Zsenyuk said the five were due to be arraigned at 34th District Court. He said the 18-year-old victim was admitted to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital for treatment. Chief Zsenyuk said 10 to 15 young people were in the parking lot when the stabbing occurred, which seems to indicate gang activity.

In our Feb. 9, 1995 issue, the following stories were covered:

- The carpenters at Empire Builders who voted unanimously not to join Carpenters Local #1234 AFL-CIO union say they are being harassed on the job site on Ellsworth Road, southwest of Ypsilanti. Their lives are being threatened, they say. Paul Thornsberry of Van Buren Township is the spokesman for the carpenters. They are building a 200-home subdivision and about 12 carpenters are from the Belleville area. Thornsberry said he called many officials for help, but State Rep. Deborah Whyman was the only one who came out.

- More than 100 people came to the Feb. 7, 1995 Van Buren Township Board of Trustees meeting to protest the Jan. 6, 1995 firing of their beloved senior director Jennifer Delano. After a nasty comment about her was made by John Herman, Delano got up to speak and said, "The evilness has got to stop. That was an ugly thing to say at a public meeting with my daughter here." She said the board members should just admit they don't like her and get on with it, "But don't accuse me of doing things I didn't do." Herman said he may have been out of order and apologized. At the beginning of the meeting when the agenda was being approved, attorney Barbara Rogalle Miller asked the board to place on the agenda the Ad Hoc Committee to Reinstate Delano, but it wasn't placed

on the agenda. Miller said the ad hoc committee continued to meet after the Jan. 17 meeting when board members refused to reconsider the firing. Since it is obvious the board won't change its mind, she asked to have a citizens' committee help in the search for a new senior director. She got no reply.

- We published an interview with Terry Williams, 85, who used his expertise as a Detroit Police officer and organized the Sumpter police department in 1948, after he moved to Sumpter. He said he was head of the police department, yet he wasn't. He got the top vote in the election for constable, but the township would not allow him to head the group, as the law allowed. He said there were very few black elected constables then. He remembered organizing a dance at the PNA Hall to earn money to buy uniforms for the police officers. Eventually, he served as constable (which was without a salary), and head of the police department and head of the water department, doing both jobs for the same salary. He told many tales of the Sumpter Roller Rink where he helped the owners in exchange for having part of the proceeds from Thursday nights, which he gave to the Sumpter Progressive Civic Club to help construct its building. Many black people came on Thursdays and Williams was sued by the NAACP for violating the Civil Rights of skaters. He was found guilty, but before he was sentenced to Jackson Prison, new evidence was presented and he was set free. Belleville's Police Chief Harry Agge, who later became justice of the peace, was his friend and willed his gun and desk to Williams when he died.

- Part-time Van Buren Township Police Officer Ken Toney helped bring a baby into the world while out on patrol. He was flagged down by a highly agitated man with a van near the Marathon gas station at the I-94 North Service Drive and Belleville Road. The father pulled off I-94 on the way to a hospital because the baby was coming and they needed help. Latisha Terese Harris was born Feb. 5, 1995 weighing 7 pounds, 10 ounces. The mother was wrapped in a blanket Officer Toney got out of his patrol car.

We will publish more history from 30 years ago as space allows.

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- 1" – 1.5" Egg Rock
- 2" – 4" Round Rock
- 4" – 12" Oversize Rock

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PROFESSIONAL
LANDSCAPING!**



Court Watching

Sifuentes Noe Uribe

Sifuentes Noe Uribe, 35, of Van Buren Township was charged with home invasion second degree and unlawful driving away of an auto on Feb. 15 in the city of Belleville. He was scheduled for a video arraignment in custody of the Taylor Police Department but Taylor was unable to arraign the defendant after he refused to sign the MIDC form and now wants a Spanish interpreter. It was possible he would be arraigned on Feb. 19. He is now in custody of Wayne County Sheriff.

He was arraigned Feb. 20 with a Spanish interpreter present and scheduled for a probable cause conference on March 5. The defendant also has an ICE hold. Bond is \$10,000/10%. He cannot return to the place of the offense and is to have no contact with the victims.

He was present by video from the Wayne County Jail on March 5 and his probable cause conference set for March 12 with an interpreter.

Adam Holmer Martain-Doss

Adam Holmer Martain-Doss of Wayne is charged with domestic violence on June 30, 2024 in Sumpter Township. He failed to appear for a Dec. 6, 2024 hearing and a warrant was issued. It was lifted on Jan. 29. His final pretrial was set for Feb. 19 and the charge was dismissed on a motion of the defendant. Case closed.

Zachary Taylor Graham

Zachary Taylor Graham, 30, of Belleville is charged with operating without security and a violation of registration plate on Jan. 24, 2025 in the city of Belleville. His remote arraignment / pretrial was set for Feb. 19. This remote pretrial was set for March 12 and personal bond is \$100.

Autumn Christine Domen

Autumn Christine Domen, 48, of Van Buren Township is charged with operating with blood alcohol content at or higher than .17, operating while intoxicated, and operating while intoxicated with an occupant younger than 16 on Jan. 30, 2025 in Van Buren Township. An in-custody video arraignment was Feb. 3 and personal

bond set at \$5,000. She was scheduled for a remote pretrial on Feb. 19. It was adjourned for discovery until March 5.

On March 5, she pled guilty to having an open intoxicant in the vehicle and the other two charges were dismissed. Her file was sent to probation for a recommended sentencing.

Chad Michael Jones

Chad Michael Jones, 34, of Sumpter Township was arraigned in custody on Feb. 18, 2025 for ten bench warrants out of Van Buren Township, Sumpter Township, and Huron Township on charges of retail fraud and driving while license suspended dating back to 2019. His arraignment/pretrial was set for March 17 for nine of the charges with \$1,000 personal bond on each charge and a GPS tether for location. The Sept. 23, 2019 charge of driving while license suspended in Huron Township had a remote pretrial set for March 13.

Zachariah Allan Hruska-Dennis

Zachariah Allan Hruska-Dennis of Ypsilanti was charged with breaking and entering a vehicle to steal property of less than \$200 on June 17, 2023 in Van Buren Township. He failed to appear for court dates and a warrant was out for his arrest. He was video-arraigned in custody on Feb. 18, 2025. He pled guilty to the charge and Judge Oakley sentenced him to 30 days and gave him credit for 30 days served in jail. Case closed.

Andrea Alana Yelder

Andrea Alana Yelder, 43, of Van Buren Township was charged with domestic violence on Feb. 9, 2025 in Van Buren Township. She was video arraigned in custody on Feb. 11 and a remote pretrial was set for Feb. 19. Her attorney requested an adjournment because of a schedule conflict. On Feb. 18, Judge Patton rescheduled for a probable cause conference on Feb. 26, which was then was changed to a remote pretrial on Feb. 26 and held Feb. 27. Another pretrial was set for March 19.

Dylan James Roth

Dylan James Roth, 20, of Van Buren Township is charged with criminal sexual conduct-3rd degree on April 20, 2023

criminal sexual conduct-3rd degree and domestic violence on Oct. 15, 2023 in Van Buren Township. His in-custody video arraignment was on Feb. 11 and his probable cause conference set for Feb. 19. Personal bond is \$5,000. The preliminary exam was set for April 2.

Lelani Juanita Latrina Aldridge

Lelani Juanita Latrina Aldridge, 25, of Belleville is charged with drove while license suspended, a registration / plate violation (civil infraction), and operating without security on Jan. 25, 2025 in the city of Belleville. Her remote arraignment / pretrial was set for Feb. 19 and then for March 12.

Michael David McDaniel

Michael David McDaniel, 26, of Wyandotte, and previously of Belleville, is charged with intent to do great bodily harm less than death (strangulation) and assault on a pregnant person on Jan. 17, 2025 in Van Buren Township. His probable cause conference was set for Feb. 19 and adjourned until March 12 for discovery.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES -- MARCH 4, 2025

Treasurer Budd called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Treasurer Budd, Clerk Wright, Trustee Martin, Trustee Frazier and Trustee Kelley. Absent/Excused: Supervisor McNamara and Trustee Boynton. Others in attendance Recording Assistant Beaudry, Public Services Director Luckett, Municipal Services Director Akers, Water and Sewer Director Miner, IT Director Barbaza and an audience of five.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE AGENDA: Treasurer Budd outlined the items appearing on the agenda.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Kelley moved, Wright seconded to approve the agenda. Motion Carried.

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA: Wright moved, Kelley seconded to approve the Consent Agenda: Board Meeting Minutes of February 18, 2025, Prepaid List of February 20, 2025, Prepaid List of February 27, 2025, Voucher List of March 4, 2025, Approval Resolution 2025-05: Authorization for Bill Miner to be on the DUWA board to represent Van Buren Township and Ron Akers to be the Alternate Representative, Approval of the re-appointments of Michael McGovern and William Osier to the Board of Construction Appeals with terms to expire February 28, 2028, Approval of Resolution 2025-06: An Amendment to the Michigan Mutual Aid Box Alarm System Agreement and Approval of the appointment of Philip Peters to the Board of Zoning Appeals (Alternate) and Environmental Commission with both terms to expire March 4, 2028. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None
C O R R E S P O N D E N C E / ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Unfinished and New Business): None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Frazier moved, Wright seconded to approve the

award of a demolition bid to Falcon Demolition LLC in the amount of \$49,900 for the ordered demolition of 50778 Michigan Avenue. Motion Carried.

Wright moved, Martin seconded to approve Resolution 2025-04: A Resolution for the Long-Term Maintenance of the storm water management system at Crossroads Distribution Center North. Motion Carried.

Martin moved, Kelley seconded to approve the second reading of ordinance 02-18-2025(1) an amendment to the Township's Zoning Ordinance to allow for added height in the Belleville Road Overlay district with additional building setbacks. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Budd, Wright, Kelley, Frazier, and Martin. Nays: None. Absent/Excused: McNamara and Boynton. Motion Carried.

Wright moved, Kelley seconded to approve the second reading of ordinance 02-18-25(2) an amendment of Article V (Property Maintenance Code) to amend Sec.18-116 to 18-150.2. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Budd, Wright, Kelley, Frazier, and Martin. Nays: None. Absent/Excused: McNamara and Boynton. Motion Carried.

Kelley moved, Wright seconded to approve a preliminary site condominium approval request and PRD site condominium modifications as recommended by the Planning Commission. Motion Carried.

Wright moved, Kelley seconded to approve a special land use for Pulte Homes for the proposed Cedarchase Development. Motion Carried.

REPORTS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: None.

BOARD COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: Clerk Wright discussed the new precinct boundary changes the Clerk's Office is working on with more information to come as the project is completed.

ADJOURNMENT: Frazier moved, Kelley seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:19 p.m. Motion Carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk
Kevin McNamara, Supervisor
Published: March 13, 2025

Public Notice

STATE OF MICHIGAN WASHTENAW COUNTY TRIAL COURT NOTICE OF ZOOM MOTION HEARING FOR NAME CHANGE CASE # 25-338-NC

Judge Julia B. Owdziej

In the matter of the name change
of David A. Hoppe

TO ALL PERSONS including those
whose address is unknown and whose
interest in the matter may be barred or
affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: David Hoppe, 734-341-0132, has filed a petition for name
change. A name change hearing will be
held on Zoom on Friday, June 13, 2025
at 10 a.m. at 7433778758

To connect to the meeting, go to
www.zoom.com, click "Join a Meeting"
and enter the above Meeting ID.

Publish: March 13, 2025

City of Belleville Public Notice

POLICE VEHICLE AUCTION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE UNDERSIGNED THAT ON
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2025 at 10AM, at J&T Towing, 287 Industrial Park
Drive, Belleville, County of Wayne, Michigan, a public sale of the following vehicle(s)
will be held:

2005 HONDA ELEMENT VIN: 5J6YH28665L004960
2006 CHEVROLET IMPALA VIN: 2G1WD58C869256226

**BELLEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
6 MAIN STREET
BELLEVILLE, MICHIGAN 48111**

**BY KRISTY DOE
BELLEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
RECORDS CLERK**

PUBLISH: MARCH 13, 2025

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN ORDINANCE 02-18-25(1) NOTICE OF ADOPTION

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at the regular meeting of the Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Trustees, the second reading of the following proposed amendment to the Van Buren Township Zoning Ordinance 5-2-17(2) was approved and is hereby adopted:

ORDINANCE 02-18-25(1): Belleville Road Overlay District (BROD): Building Height and Setback Standards. Proposed amendments to the BROD to increase the maximum height allowed for four (4) story buildings up to 50 feet with increases in setbacks. This amendment changes the following sections of the zoning ordinance: Article 6: Supplemental Zoning District Standard, Chapter 3: Belleville Road Overlay District, Section 6.309 Architectural and Site Design Standards. Addition of new subsection C(2)(i): Additional Building Height.

A true copy of the proposed Ordinance may be viewed and inspected at the office of the Township Clerk located at 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, Michigan during recent business hours, Monday through Thursday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The adopted Zoning Ordinance amendment will be effective seven (7) days after the date of publication.

Adopted: March 4, 2025
Published: March 13, 2025
Effective: March 21, 2025

For Classified Advertising, Display Advertising or News Tips
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Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION AND POSTING

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN:

Pursuant to Section 8 of the Michigan Charter Township Act (MCL 42.8) PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the following ordinances were adopted by the Township Board of Trustees on the 4th day of March 2025:

Ordinance 02-18-25(2): ADOPTION OF THE 2024 INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE, AS AMENDED. An ordinance to amend sections 18-116 – 18-150.2 of the Township’s General Code of Ordinances to adopt the International Property Maintenance Code, 2024 edition as the property maintenance code and ordinance for regulating and governing the conditions and maintenance of all property, buildings and structures, by providing for the standards for supplied utilities and facilities and other physical things and conditions essential to ensure that structures are safe, sanitary and fit for occupation and use; the condemnation of buildings and structures unfit for human occupancy and use, and the demolition of such existing structures as herein provided; and, providing for the issuance of permits and collection of fees therefore.

A true copy of the proposed Ordinances may be viewed and inspected at the office of the Township Clerk located at 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, Michigan, during regular business hours, Monday through Thursday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. These ordinances will go into effect upon publication.

Posting Date: March 13, 2025
Date of Publication: March 13, 2025
Effective: March 13, 2025

Musings

By Janet Millard
Independent
Advertising Director



If you haven’t visited the Museum during March for the annual Quilt Show yet, please don’t put it off and let the time get away from you. Some of the quilts are in this week’s paper and if Saturday is the only day you can make it, you are in for a real treat. The Quilt Guild will be there with demonstrations every hour starting at noon: March 15, Emma Moya - paper piecing; March 22, Tina Lewis shares the Quilt Guild’s “We Care Program” (quilts are given to those in need); and on March 29, Bob Green, machine maintenance.

I know of a few St. Patrick’s Day events: Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue (FMAR) will have a St. Patrick’s Day fundraiser at the Sumpter Roller Skate Park, 19750 Sumpter Rd. on March 15. The fee is \$10 for the pre-sale and includes shoes - \$12 at the door. Order tickets at: <https://square.kubj.u/FOTnEHV8>

The Van Buren Eagles on Beck Road are having a Friday Fish Fry on the 14th at 5 p.m. plus a meat auction at 6:30 p.m. Then a special pre-St. Patrick’s Day party at 7:30 p.m. with DJ Richendollar. They hold the fish fry every Friday through April and the community is invited to attend. Now, St. Patrick’s Day (when we are all Irish) is on Monday, March 17, and the Eagles will celebrate with an Irish dinner and raffle at 5 p.m.

The Belleville Rotary Club is offering \$5,000 scholarships, so if you know a graduating senior who lives in the 48111, tell them to get the application from their BHS counselor or from the Rotary Face Book Page: Rotary Club of Belleville, MI if they live here but go to a different school.

Third Thursday in the Ville with extended shopping hours from 5 to 8 p.m. is starting on Thursday, March 20. Look for A-frames on Main Street for popups. On the Belleville Central Business Community Face Book page you will find the list for shopping and dining plus the location of popups.

March also brings us the National Vietnam War Veterans Day. This year the commemoration ceremony will take place on Friday, March 21, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Belleville High School Auditorium. Every year I am asked to participate in the program and it is my pleasure to do that again this year. All veterans are welcome and invited to attend

Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Janet Millard at (734) 699-9020.

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NEWSPAPER ONLINE!**

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Independent Website
is Online! Visit us @
bellevilleareaindependent.com**

Van Buren Public Schools Public Notice

VAN BUREN PUBLIC SCHOOLS ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Van Buren Public Schools will receive sealed bid proposals until **1:00 p.m. on April 3, 2025**, for the **Belleville High School RAHS Renovation Project**. Bids will be opened and publicly read aloud immediately following the deadline for submission. Van Buren Public Schools will not consider or accept a bid received after the date and time specified for the bid submission.

Bid documents may be viewed and downloaded at:
<https://www.davenportbrothers.com/plan-room/>

A non-mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held on March 18, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. at the Van Buren Public Schools Administration Building, 555 W. Columbia Ave. Belleville, MI 48111.

A Bid Security executed by a U.S. Treasury listed Surety Company acceptable to the Owner or a cashier’s check in the amount of at least five percent (5%) of the bid must be included along with a statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the board, board of directors, or the superintendent of the School District. An Iran Disclosure Statement must also be included along with a Criminal Background Disclosure Affidavit and a Non-Collusive Affidavit. Accepted bidders may be required to furnish Performance and Payment Bonds in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the Contract Price.

Documents will be available for viewing on **March 13, 2025**. Any questions, contact Mark Davenport, Davenport Brothers Construction Company at: Mark@davenportbrothers.com.

Publish: March 13, 2025

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 287 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police this week including the following.

Sunday, March 2:

0203 – family trouble, Outer Dr.
0258 – assist fire dept., Lohr Rd.
0331 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.
1118 – domestic, Coolidge St.
1302 – fraud, Westlake Cir.
1307 – disorderly, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1331 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Savage Rd./Wildbrook Dr.
1339 – fraud, Ayres Ave.
1417 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Mida Dr.
1709 – assist fire dept., Cumberland Ct.
1819 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.
2054 – disorderly, Lighthouse Dr.
2130 – larceny, Parkwood Dr.
2320 – intrusion alarm, Rawsonville Rd.

Monday, March 3:

0016 – noise complaint, Prairiegrass Ct.
0055 – intrusion alarm, Rawsonville Rd.
0303 – intrusion alarm, Rawsonville Rd.
0737 – domestic, Riggs Rd.
0909 – personal injury accident, Haggerty/Tyler
0951 – fraud, Waters Edge Ln.
1034 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Thornwood Dr.
xxxx – private property impound, Belleville Rd.
1240 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1244 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1244 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1526 – fraud, Outer Dr.
1546 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1602 – intrusion alarm, E. Sadie Ln.
1621 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Ecorse Rd. / Haggerty Rd.

1814 – parking complaint, Bayshore
1804 – found property/child, Tyler Rd.
1824 – civil matter, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1826 – intrusion alarm, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2050 – assist fire dept., Denton Rd.
2106 – larceny, Maurice Dr.
2356 – domestic, Freedom Way

Tuesday, March 4:

0011 – intrusion alarm, Rawsonville Rd.
0041 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Denton Rd.
0251 – domestic, Denton Rd.
0658 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, S. Woodbury Dr.
0716 – intrusion alarm, Van Buren St.
0727 – welfare check, Tyler Rd.
1026 – unattended death, Lake Point Pass
1102 – welfare check, N. Ponderosa Trl.
1110 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd./N. I-94 Service Dr.
1214 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Van Born Rd.
Xxxx – property damage accident, Van Born Rd. / Belleville Rd.
1319 – domestic, Freedom Way
1422 – road hazard, Michigan Ave./Denton Rd.
1425 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd./N. I-94 Service Dr.

1635 – family trouble, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1649 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Haggerty Rd./Tyler Rd.
1901 – larceny, Village Green Ln.
1901 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd.
xxxx – overdose, W. Adams
2039 – fraud, Rock Creek Dr.
2324 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Jackson St.
2331 – background investigation, Tyler Rd.

Wednesday, March 5:

0209 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.
0523 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0537 – intrusion alarm, Brookside Dr.
0610 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr./Independence Ln.
0718 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Martinsville Rd.
0806 – vehicle lockout, Victoria St.
0855 – found property/child, Belleville Rd.
0941 – threat, Red Oak Dr.
1033 – unauthorized driving away of auto, N. I-94

Service Dr.

1254 – intrusion alarm, Andover Dr.
xxxx – private property impound, Ecorse Rd.
1341 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1404 – property damage accident, W. I-94 / Haggerty Rd.
1428 – intrusion alarm, S. Timberview Dr.
1444 – assist citizen, Rawsonville
1519 – welfare check, McBride Ave.
1558 – fraud, Meadows Ln.
1609 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1731 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1805 – mental subject, Denton Rd.
1919 – welfare check, Lancaster Dr.
1934 – intrusion alarm, Van Born
2117 – intrusion alarm, Van Born
2206 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.
2350 – 911 welfare check, Parkwood Dr.

Thursday, March 6:

0026 – intrusion alarm, Rawsonville Rd.
0139 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
0228 – welfare check, Kirkridge Park Dr.
xxxx – repossession, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0647 – vehicle lockout, S. Woodbury Dr.
0652 – civil matter, Denton Rd.
0749 – intrusion alarm, Marlowe Ave.
0810 – warrant arrest, Tyler Rd.
0859 – harassment call, Martinsville Rd.
0901 – civil matter, Denton Rd.
xxxx – intrusion alarm, Wildbrook Dr.
0931 – animal complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1203 – domestic, N. Ponderosa Trl.
xxxx – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Lake Point Blvd.
1257 – animal complaint, Country Pond Estates
1326 – abandoned auto, Patty Ln.
1317 – fraud, Country Walk Blvd.
1447 – warrant arrest, Middlebelt Rd./Wick Rd.
1509 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1746 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, S. Sunset Ln.

1709 – 911 welfare check, Denton Rd.
1755 – malicious destruction of property, S. Bellridge Dr.
1731 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Belleville Rd.
1824 – assault & battery, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1852 – civil matter, Denton Rd.
1948 – noise complaint, Lake Villa Dr.
2028 – welfare check, Parkwood Dr.
2152 – 911 welfare check, Denton Rd.
2209 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Parkwood Dr.

2214 – assist other dept., Hardwood Dr.
2305 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Morton Taylor Rd./Van Born Rd.

Friday, March 7:

0643 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.
xxxx – assist other dept., Denton Rd.
0651 – assist fire dept., Country Walk Blvd.
0746 – animal complaint, Roulo St.
0946 – civil matter, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0953 – fight, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1031 – threat, Rose Blvd.
1118 – assist other dept., Lohr Rd./Martz Rd.
1215 – larceny from auto, Denton Rd.
1254 – fraud, Timberview Ct.
1303 – fraud, Michigan Ave.
1313 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd. / Ecorse Rd.

1330 – trespassing, Belleville Rd.
1438 – parking complaint, Colonial Rd.
1526 – neighbor trouble, Rose Blvd.
1530 – personal injury accident, Belleville/Tyler
1533 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1533 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1659 – animal complaint, Park Estates
1850 – 911 welfare check, Oak Ln.
1927 – intrusion alarm, Van Born
2014 – runaway, Celestine Dr.
2118 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Timberland Dr. / Elwell Rd.
2154 – noise complaint, Ash Dr.
2225 – road hazard, Haggerty Rd./Tyler Rd.
2247 – neighbor trouble, Rose Blvd.

Saturday, March 8:

0029 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Archwood Dr.
0153 – welfare check, Belleville Rd./N. I-94 Service Dr.
0351 – breaking & entering, Lakeview Ct.
0724 – assist fire dept., Bemis Rd.

0908 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.
0932 – assist fire dept., Michigan Ave.
xxxx – repossession, Belleville Rd.
1112 – assist fire dept., Belle Pointe Dr.
1153 – assist fire dept., Andover Dr.
1216 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1330 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
1556 – welfare check, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1631 – assist fire dept., Ecorse Rd./Beck Rd.
1645 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
1839 – fraud, Stamford Rd.
1845 – motorist assist, Haggerty Rd./Ecorse Rd.
2008 – domestic, N. Ponderosa Trl.
2016 – property damage accident, Hannan Rd.
2029 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.
2046 – welfare check, Robbe Rd.
2128 – assist fire dept., Belle Pointe Dr.
2220 – welfare check, W. Huron River Dr.
2230 – civil matter, W. Walden Dr.
2256 – civil matter, Belleville Rd.
2243 – family trouble, Holly Ln.
2342 – family trouble, Holly Ln.

Also, on this log are 119 traffic stops, 24 of which are on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, March 2:

0236 – assist fire dept., E. Waterbury Ct.

Monday, March 3:

0230 – intrusion alarm, Owen St.
0744 – motorist assist, Owen St./Sumpter Rd.
0833 – property check, Denton Rd.
1051 – welfare check, W. Columbia Ave.
1058 – fight, W. Columbia Ave.
1114 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Sumpter Rd. / Industrial Park Dr.
1653 – missing person, W. Columbia Ave.
1806 – misc. complaint, Belle Villa Blvd.
1818 – private property/property damage accident, S. Edgemont Ave.
2225 – noise complaint, Bedell St.

Tuesday, March 4:

0613 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.
1129 – found property/child, Sumpter Rd. / Belle Villa Blvd.
1455 – motorist assist, Astor Pl.
1950 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, South St.
2008 – parking complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
2208 – missing person, N. Edgemont Ave.
2231 – civil matter, N. Liberty St.

Wednesday, March 5:

0208 – intrusion alarm, Owen St.
1314 – assist fire dept., Owen St.
1926 – larceny, W. Columbia Ave.
2101 – assist citizen, E. Huron River/Madelon
2136 – assist fire dept., Belle Villa Blvd.
2233 – welfare check, Sumpter/E. Columbia Ave.

Thursday, March 6:

1156 – background investigation, Main St.
xxxx – property damage accident, Belle Villa / Belle Villa Blvd.

Friday, March 7:

0037 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Loza Ln. / E. Huron River Dr.
1003 – assist other dept., S. I-94 Service Dr.
1226 – traffic offense, Belle Villa Blvd./Sumpter
1529 – assist other dept., Rose Blvd.
1616 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, W. Columbia Ave.
2128 – welfare check, Main St.

Saturday, March 8:

0358 – property damage accident, Main St./Fifth
1037 – welfare check, W. Columbia Ave.
1441 – traffic offense, High St./Brain St.
There are 116 reports on this week's log and 82 of these are traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, March 2:

0207 – 911 hangup, Montana St.
0238 – alarm, 50000 bl. Willow Rd.
0847 – 911 hangup, Mulberry Dr.

1109 – suspicious person, Elwell Rd./Harris Rd.
1424 – alarm, 24000 bl. Bohn Rd.
1725 – suspicious circumstance, Nevada St.
1939 – property damage accident, Birch Dr.
2155 – family trouble, 46000 bl. Judd Rd.
2245 – larceny, Oregon St.

Monday, March 3:

0013 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Rawsonville Rd./Judd Rd.
0127 – 911 hangup, 23000 bl. Carleton West Rd.
0552 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Karr Rd.
0615 – family trouble, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0735 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
0820 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Willis Rd.
0826 – suspicious person, Dakota Ct.
0924 – fire dept. assist, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
0931 – assist other agency, Tamarack Dr.
1257 – mental health call, 47000 bl. Harris Rd.
1305 – traffic complaint/hazard, Birch Dr.
1516 – 911 hangup, 20000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1626 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Lohr Rd.
1649 – welfare check, Georgia St.
1652 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1742 – misdemeanor warrant arrest, Sumpter Rd.

/ Bemis Rd.

1953 – family trouble, Martinsville Rd./Judd Rd.

Tuesday, March 4:

0200 – suspicious person, 45000 bl. Willis Rd.
0259 – follow-up investigation, out of township
0617 – suspicious circumstance, Nevada St.
0826 – suspicious circumstance, Willis Rd.
1114 – ordinance violation, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1236 – follow-up investigation, Colorado St.
1258 – suspicious circumstance, 50000 bl. Willis
1521 – follow-up investigation, out of township
1605 – suspicious circumstance, 22000 bl. Carleton West Rd.
1619 – assist other agency, Alaska St.
1748 – property damage accident, Willow/Elwell
2103 – family trouble, 48000 bl. Sully Dr.
2301 – harassment complaint, Rustic Ln.
2304 – follow-up investigation, New Mexico St.

Wednesday, March 5:

0010 – suspicious person, Rustic Ln.
0242 – noise complaint, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1234 – welfare check, Magnolia Dr.
1334 – suspicious circumstance, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.

1436 – assault, Rustic Ln.
1557 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Clay Rd.
1612 – welfare check, 43000 bl. Judd Rd.
1657 – assist other agency, 46000 bl. Judd Rd.
1700 – citizen assist, Birch Dr.
1749 – welfare check, 43000 bl. Judd Rd.
1806 – fire dept. assist, Wayside Dr.
1939 – traffic complaint/hazard, Wear Rd. / Carleton West Rd.

2007 – misdemeanor warrant arrest, 47000 bl. Willow Rd.

2115 – assist other agency, Redwood St.
2119 – malicious destruction of property, Rustic Ln.

Thursday, March 6:

0853 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1059 – family trouble, Texas St.
1249 – suspicious circumstance, 19000 bl. Karr
1435 – suspicious circumstance, 46000 bl. Traskos
1602 – special detail, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1911 – fire dept. assist, Carriage Ln.
1941 – family trouble, 19000 bl. Sharon Ct.
1945 – suspicious vehicle, Sherwood Rd. / Oakville Waltz Rd.

2233 – 911 hangup, New Mexico St.
2334 – alarm, 42000 bl. Judd Rd.
2339 – fire dept. assist, Utah St.

Friday, March 7:

0340 – suspicious circumstance, 45000 bl. Willis
0734 – animal complaint, Ohio St.
0807 – follow-up investigation, 47000 bl. Bemis
0914 – welfare check, Hickory Dr.
0954 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Traskos Ave.
1000 – misdemeanor warrant arrest, Alaska St.
1053 – property damage accident, Harris/Sumpter
1145 – property damage accident, Bemis/Sully
1254 – animal complaint, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1325 – fire dept. assist, Utah St.
1448 – follow-up investigation, out of township
1509 – noise complaint, Dakota Ct./California St.
1631 – 911 hangup, Rustic Ln.
1727 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Harris Rd.
1738 – suspicious vehicle, Sumpter Rd./Harris Rd.
2102 – motorist assist, Harris Rd./Martinsville Rd.
2303 – alarm, 50000 bl. Willow Rd.
(Continued on page 19)

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

(continued from page 18)

Saturday, March 8:

0200 – motorist assist, Willis Rd./California St.
0319 – welfare check, Rawsonville Rd./Willis Rd.
1539 – mental health call, 43000 bl. Judd Rd.
1819 – follow-up investigation, 46000 bl. Bemis
2112 – suspicious vehicle, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
Also on this week's log are 198 patrol checks, 64 traffic stops, and 10 misc. details.

**One Call Does It All...
...At The Independent
734-699-9020**

Charles Clay Smith publishes first book: 'Rodeo Gypsy'

Charles Clay Smith of Van Buren Township has completed a novel, "Rodeo Gypsy," that was recently published by Covenant Books.

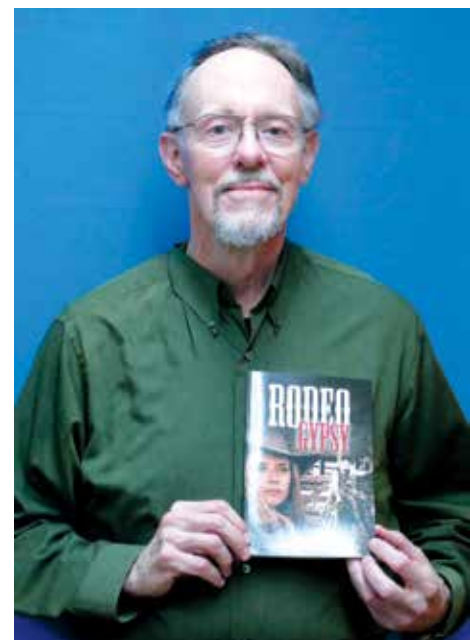
Smith, a graduate of Michigan State University, served as a Wayne County Sheriff's Deputy and then with Airport Police for a total of 30 years as a police officer.

Over the years, he said he wrote hundreds of reports and honed his writing skills to author stories without exaggeration or embellishment, concisely and to the point.

He first wrote the story as a screenplay. He envisioned it becoming a movie and in his imagination, actress Jennifer Lawrence who starred in "The Hunger Games," "Silver Linings Playbook," and many other films, would play the lead.

But he couldn't find a script agent to get it to a movie-maker, so he changed the format into book form.

He said the story in his book is about one woman's journey to recover and heal from her grief following three life-changing losses that lead her down a spiral of despair



Charles Clay Smith

and grief.

Susan Donnely Rowe has suffered three great losses in her life: The abandonment by her mother when she was 12, the sudden death of her father two years later, and then the death of her husband who was killed by a bull in a rodeo bull-riding competition.

She and her husband were about to leave their rodeo life, where they traveled the rodeo circuit like Western gypsies, and settle down to life on their ranch and have their children.

After her husband's loss, Susan suffers a complete breakdown and loses herself in a spiral of grief and depression. The story is about her journey out of her grief and depression and, how after one week with new people who came into her life, she fought her way back.

Smith said he hopes that readers will enjoy this story because in many ways, this story is about all of us.

Covenant Books is an international Christian-owned-and-operated publishing house based in South Carolina. It specializes in all genres of work which appeal to the Christian market.

Readers can purchase "Rodeo Gypsy" at bookstores everywhere or online at the Apple iTunes store, Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and Kindle.



VAN BUREN
PARKS & RECREATION

DESIGN YOUR OWN LAKESIDE PARK



Join us by participating in our visioning workshop to help shape the future of The Lake House, a visionary community project in Van Buren Township. Your input will guide the development of a lakeside park that fosters community connection and enhances public access to Belleville Lake.

**WEDNESDAY
MARCH 19
3 - 8 PM**

**VBT COMMUNITY CENTER
46425 TYLER RD**

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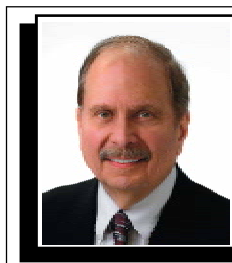
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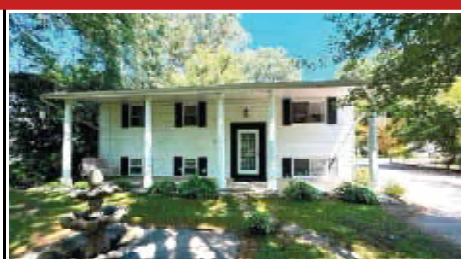
Mayor City of Belleville
1987-1995

Real Trends Rankings
Top 1% Nationwide



37416 THERESA LANE, HURON TOWNSHIP

NEW RANCH LISTING Featuring 2 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, Huge Basement, Premium Kitchen, All Appliances, Hardwood Floors, Oversize Garage, Deck, Generator. \$375,000



6757 BELLEVILLE RD, VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP

LARGE COLONIAL Features 4 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, 2 Kitchens, On 5.88 Acres and a 2.5 Car Garage and 3.5 Car Garage for the gardener or craft person. \$378,000



OPEN HOUSE SAT MARCH 15th 11-1

25 POTTER, BELLEVILLE

BELLEVILLE LAKE - NEW LISTING Features 3,200 Sq Ft, 3 Bedrooms, 3 1/2 Baths. Totally Upgraded with Premium Material, Dock, Multi Level Deck 2 1/2 Car Garage. \$779,000



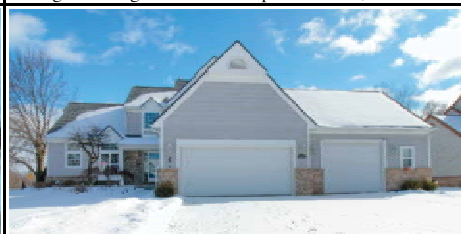
8525 CHERRY HILL, SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP

IN A MOST PRIVATE WORLD. Premium Kitchen, 4 bedrooms (First Floor Master), 3 1/2 Baths, 4,400 Sq Ft, Finished Basement, 40x60 Pole Barn on 5 1/2 Acres. \$1,150,000



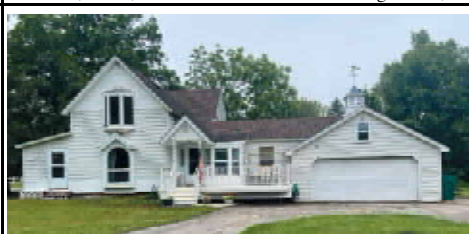
404 MAIN STREET, BELLEVILLE

LARGE RESTAURANT IN THE MIDDLE OF BELLEVILLE. 6,000+ Sq Ft. Includes Liquor License, Interior Equipment, Seating + Wrap Around Bar. \$990,000.



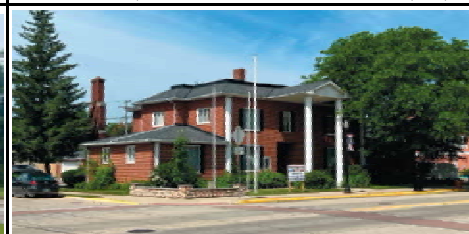
237 HARBOUR POINTE, BELLEVILLE

NEW LISTING 3 Bedroom Colonial with First Floor Master, 2 Full and 2 Half Baths, Finished Basement, 3+ Car Garage, 50 Foot Deck, Corner Lot with Lake Views \$425,000



13300 EDGEDALE, VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP

THIS IMPRESSIVE VICTORIAN home offers an open family room and dining room with Hardwood floors showcasing the arched windows. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms \$269,900



209 MAIN STREET, BELLEVILLE

IT'S A POSSIBLE AIR B&B 7,000+ Square Foot Building on High Traffic Main Street. Large Rooms, Finished Basement and 6 plus Car Garage. \$749,000 or Lease

BELLEVILLE 3 RESIDENTIAL LOTS ONE

PENDING CITY CROSS

FROM BELLEVILLE LAKE NOW \$49,000

3 ACRES - COMMERCIAL CORNER AT

SUMPTER AND WILLOW NOW \$150,000

GRANT & WAHRMAN 4 ACRES LT IND BY

METRO AIRPORT \$250,000

2 P

One

Outbuilding and Survey \$315,800 for Both

HAGGERTY

WILLIS R

SOLD

ER \$60,000

WILLIS & MARTINSVILLE 1.64 AC

\$65,000

JUDD RD

SOLD

AC \$39,500

HURON TWP VAC ASH .87 ACRES

\$29,900

GRANT ROMULUS 1.8 AC LT IND

\$50,000

50540 BOG RD ONE HALF ACRE

\$55,000

4 PARCELS ON THE CORNER OF BEMIS

AN

1 PARCEL LEFT

\$50,000 BUILDER SPECIAL for 3 LOTS

VACANT LOUISA DREAM LOT \$55,000

***** BELLEVILLE LAKEFRONT *** 2405**

RAWSONVILLE 99X328 .74 AC \$99,900

CORNER OF SHERWOOD & JUDD ROAD

SUM

SOLD

FARMER BOYS

19+ ACRES BREST RD. TAYLOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PROPERTY - PAVED STREET NEAR INKSTER ROAD. \$550,000



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**WELCOME,
TED MILLER!**